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Botanists finding *P. Mitis* in the States above mentioned, or in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, or Michigan, are requested to communicate with the Director of the Botanic Garden of Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

§ 151. **Wood's Plant Press.**—[On the suggestion of a very distinguished European botanist, we republish the following article.]

The method of drying botanical specimens heretofore generally practised, a method more particularly described in the November and December BULLETINS [1872], is tedious and burdensome. Few, we think, will deny this. The collector who attempts to keep up with the season of flowers must have in use an immense quantity of paper—must rearrange specimens and paper at least twice a day—must thoroughly dry the sheets, separately, daily—all this, besides the collecting, makes botany a *business* rather than a recreation, and leaves too little time for study or any other duty.

It is the drying-press which is in fault—that old-fashioned press used by botanists from Linnæus down. True, it has done good service, and so has the sewing-needle. Shall the sewing-machine be rejected on this account? If the intolerable drudgery of plant-drying by *absorption* can be obviated by an invention, why not try it? Wood's *wire-press*, described in the "*Botanist and Florist*," p. 10, and "*Class-Book*," p. 15, is such an invention, unpatented, free to all collectors. It dries by *evaporation* rather than absorption, and thus makes available all the sources of heat, whether natural or artificial. It requires comparatively but little paper—less than half the amount needed in the old process; hence it is portable, and serves the double purpose of portfolio and press. It requires no changing of specimens and papers, no drying of damp and mildewed sheets.

In fair weather the wire press dries in the wind and sunshine; in foul weather, by the fire. In either case, after one or two days the specimens will be found thoroughly cured, and as bright in colors as is possible by any other known method.

To the travelling collector this form of press is invaluable. With it so light is his labor in drying his specimens that it occasions him little if any delay, and so light his luggage that a single donkey will suffice him in lieu of half a dozen for its transportation. With this simple press the writer, during a single year, cured more than three thousand specimens, in a protracted journey of about fifteen hundred miles.

A. W.

[For the convenience of those who may not have the original at hand we copy the description referred to.]

"The drying press, to be most efficient and convenient, should consist of a dozen quires of unsized paper, at least 11 x 14 inches folio; two sheets of wire gauze (same size) as covers, stiffened by folded edges [a narrow, folded edge of tin plate is better]; and three or four leather straps a yard in length, with buckles. When in use, suspend this press in the wind and sunshine; or, in rainy weather, by the fire."

§ 152. **Leaf Calendar.**—Spring has come. It is time to watch the opening buds. We hope correspondents will keep a note book

with them, and give us notice of the leaves as they appear, together with the stage of advancement of adjacent trees or shrubs.

§ 153. **Publications.**—1. *American Journal of Science and Arts.* The important paper by Dr. J. H. Gilbert, F.R.S., etc., on the "Sources of the nitrogen of vegetation in general, and of agricultural production in particular," begun in the January No., and continued in that of February, is completed in the March No. In the February No. is a notice by Dr. Gray, of Darwin's new work, on the "Effects of Cross and Self Fertilization in the Vegetable Kingdom," and Prof. Farlow has some interesting notices of European Cryptogamic publications in this and the April No. In the March No., Dr. Gray favors the use of the terms *dextrorse* and *sinistrorse*, as viewed from without; as a common screw, in which the spiral rises towards the right, is recognized as a right-handed screw. Grandeau and Bouton find that the stem of the mistletoe differs essentially from that of the tree on which it grows. In the April No., Dr. Crozier, of Louisville, Ky., tells of the destruction of forests of black walnut by the American mistletoe (*Phoradendron flavescens*, Nutt.).—2. *Field and Forest* for Feb. has notes on the preservation of fungi, by M. E. B., and an interesting account of Botany at the Centennial Exhibition, by Dr. Vasey.—3. *Botanical Gazette*: The February No. contains a list of Illinois lichens, by J. Wolf; a useful notice of changes in botanical nomenclature since the publication of the last edition of Gray's Manual, by Dr. Porter; a continuation of Dr. Garber's botanical rambles in East Florida; and a list of additions to Mr. J. Schneck's Flora of the Lower Wabash Valley. In the March No., Dr. Porter describes a new species of *Prunus* (*P. Alleghaniensis*), from Western Pennsylvania: "Stone turgid, somewhat obovoid, with a blunt point, a shallow groove on one side, and a broad flat ridge on the other. Nearly allied to *P. maritima*, Wang. var. b. T. & G. (*P. pygmaea*, Willd.). Mr. Elihu Hall commences a list of the trees and shrubs of Oregon; Mr. Austin gives Bryological notes; Mr. Green records *Verbascum Thapsus*, L., *Lepidium Draba*, L., and *Datura Tatula*, L., as introduced into California; and Mr. Schneck an interesting discovery of root leaves of *Alisma Plantago*.—4. *Onion Smut*: An Essay presented to the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, by Prof. W. G. Farlow. This new fungus (*Urocystis Cepulae*, Frost, MS.) seems nearly confined at present to New England, where it is becoming mischievous, and is supposed to be derived from some wild onion.—5. Prof. Farlow sends us also, *Remarks on some Algæ found in the water supplies of the City of Boston*.—6. *Woolson & Co.'s Price List and Descriptive Catalogue of Handy Perennial Plants*. Passaic, N. J., P. O. Box 180.—7. *Forest Culture and Eucalyptus Trees*, by Elwood Cooper, San Francisco, Cal., contains, beside the lecture on the subject by Mr. Cooper, descriptions of 32 varieties of Eucalyptus, from Ferd. Mueller, of 22 varieties, from a Sydney catalogue, and several spirited lectures of von Mueller's on forest culture.—8. In the recent numbers of the *American Naturalist*, among the usual variety of interesting botanical notes, we notice a List of the Lichens growing within twenty miles of Yale College, by Franklin W. Hall.—9. *Report of the Botanist*, Charles H. Peck, from